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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts 16 publication wish to have rejected articles returne. New must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

### Gunning for Tawney.

It seems that Representative JAMES A. TAWNEY of Minnesota, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, has been marked for slaughter. The story come from Washington, but doubtless it is an scho of the discontent that is usually heard in the First Minnesota district after the adjournment of Congress.

Mr. TAWNEY is not loved by some of his constituents, who call themselves Republicans. He was near defeat at the nomination primary last summer, and his plurality was reduced at the November election by concerted action among the soreheads. It is admitted even by his opponents that Mr. TAWNEY is an honest, capable, hard working Representative, whose intentions are honorable. There must be some merit in the man, for he has served in eight Congresses and is no master of the arts of the demagogue; in fact, it would be hard to find a more practical, conscientious and independent Representative in Washington. Mr. TAWNEY may not be a great or an original man, but he gives true value for the salary paid him. A useful public servant, he stands in the forefront of the men who work, and shoulder responsibilities in Congress.

It is not difficult, however, to put a finger on the blemishes of Mr. TAWNEY as some of his constituents see them. First and foremost, he has grossly offended the Roosevelt idolators in his district by failing in obeisance and daring to criticise the methods of the idol. It may have been rash of JAMES A. TAWNEY to intimate that there was no legal sanction for the ornamental and futile commissions that the late President created to exploit his fads, but the lawyers of the present Administration seem to agree with Mr. TAWNEY It was just like him, too, to protest against the diversion of employees of the Government with other work to do. and its funds for that matter, to the business trumped up by Mr. ROOSEVELT for spectacular effect. Mr. TAWNEY by his display of common sense and his vigorous independence. He almost paid for it by losing his seat in Congress.

Another count in the indictment was the man's insatiate appetite for economy in administering the Government. Under the Roosevelt system of teaching the principles of government economy was a high crime and misdemeanor. Mr TAWNEY'S culpability almost put him in the list of undesirable citizens. He even had the hardihood to urge reduction in appropriations for the army and navy -nothing could be more unpopular, more presumptuous. The man's harping on economy was tiresome in a liberal age, and it interfered with the plans of some of his constituents. His capital crime seems to be that he voted for the Payne tariff bill. It is true that he had lots of company in Congress, if not in the Minnesota delegation, but it must be remembered that he was an old offender and had sorely tried the patience of

some of his constituents. We shall not speculate upon whether they will succeed in preventing the return of JAMES A. TAWNEY to Congress, but Congress will lose an efficient and public spirited member, a man very much above the average in attainments and character, if they drag him down.

# The Case of the Aigrettes.

The new Collector of the Port has ex perienced considerable trouble in dealing with a lot of aigrettes, said to be worth \$1,500, which were recently seized. He proposed in the first instance to offer these feather ornaments, which are intended for the personal adornment of women, for sale at public auction; but this project was abandoned at the instance of the Audubon societies, who are interested in the protection of wild birds and in suppressing the use of their plumage in dress. The second conclusion reached was that the proposed sale would be a violation of the laws of the United States and the laws of the State of New York. Hence it seemed that nothing could be done with the aigrettes except to destroy them. To this course, however, earnest objection was made by representatives of the Feather Importers Association. They appealed to the Treasury Department at Washington.

As the outcome of this appeal it is now announced that no Federal law can be discovered which prohibits the possession of imported plumage, and that so far as the State of New York is concerned there has been no effort to enforce the statute on the subject, which has been allowed to remain ineffective for nine years. As we understand it, the Treasury Department takes the ground that it is not bound to pay any attention to a State law which the State authorities themselves neglect to en-

and reenacted as a part of the consolidated laws of this State which were approved by the Governor on February 17, 1909. Section 98 of the forest, fish and game law thus revised reads as follows:

" Wild birds other than the English sparrow, crow, hawk, crow blackbird, snow owi, great horned owl and kingfisher shall not be taken or essed at any time, dead or alive, except unde the authority of a certificate issued under this chapter. No part of the plumage, skin or body of any bird protected by this section shall be sold or had in possession for sale. The provisions of this section shall not apply to game birds for which an open season is provided in this chapter."

An aigrette in the ordinary acceptation of the term is a plume or tuft of feathers usually obtained from the small white heron. This bird would almost certainly be classed as a wild bird under the forest, fish and game law, and the prohibition of Section 98 against the sale or possession of any part of the plumage of a bird protected by that section would seem to apply to the plumage of the white heron. The statute is not clear however, as to whether this prohibition is intended to apply to wild birds killed or captured outside of the limits of the State of New York. If it is applicable only to wild birds shot or taken within the State boundaries then the aigrettes seized by the customs authorities would

fall within the scope of the State law. If the Treasury Department has base its ruling on this construction of the statute we have no fault to find with it. On the other hand, it strikes us as rather weak and flabby for the Federal authorities to ignore a State law, as they are said to have done, simply because they think that the State itself has not en forced that law with sufficient rigor.

#### The Evidence.

Apparently the only thing against direct nominations is the evidence It never fails except when it is tried, and then it doesn't work. We have quoted at length from the experience of other States. Recent primaries in Maryland, Virginia and Indiana supply additional interesting testimony, peculiarly interesting because of the light it sheds upon two much discussed points first, the influence of direct primaries in arousing the voters; secondly, the character of the candidates under direct primaries. The champions of direct cominations in this State maintain that direct nominations will increase the popular participation in primaries and raise the level of candidates for public office. These are the chief advantages claimed for the revolutionary system.

The other day there were direct primary elections in Indiana, Maryland and Virginia. What were the results? We quote first from the Baltimore

"The election was a costly one to the city. t necessitated an outlay of approximately \$40,000. As about 14,000, or a little over 12 per cent., of the registered vote was polled every vote cast cost

A second quotation from the same news article is interesting:

older comestable. As there are 5,000 of these the State offices, it is not susprising that they should have given a better account of themselves than the Republicans. The Democratic organzation also put out a little money to stir up the vorkers, \$5 being allotted to each precinct.

The Virginia experience is equally Huminating. We quote from the comment of the Boston Transcript:

" The same complaint comes from both Indiana and Virginia, and it was heard in the latter State long before the Democratic primaries which were held Thursday. Independent Virginians say that the officeholders are as strongly in renched as ever, and that money, if it does not talk," works. It is plain that the primaries in many places were so thinly attended that their lecision was the verdict-only of a minority of the whole vote. In many of the rural countles no half of the party vote was cast, and in husy Danville the proportion of the Democracy participating was the smallest on record. Yet the issues were such as might be expected to call out large

Apparently the voters do not come out. There has been a long procession of experiences such as we have quoted above. But what of the character of the candidates? Are they better men than the Indianapolis Star to testify on this point as illuminated by the recent local primary:

" It is not necessary, neither is it possible, to renounce wise and final judgment upon the direct primary law from the brief experience thus far afforded, but at least one tendency of the sysem may be positively recognized here as already in States where it has been longer employed. The tendency to which we allude is the encouragement given to cheap and unfit self seekers and corresponding discouragement to men of char acter and sensibilities who might be induced by ombined party demand to accept responsible office which under no circumstances would they solicit by expenditure of money and brazen exploitation of their own virtues."

There is other expert testimony, howof the pure direct primary-the " 54-40 or fight" variety. On this subject the interest now in Tenderloin bawdry than Portland Oregonian says that the man they did in the past, the dramatists to who

can shake most haids, make himself the best mixer, communicate with the largest number by means of empty speeches or filmflam circulars sent through the mails, or make in any way the most touching appeal to the fancy of hobbyhorsical citizens as silver advocates, single tax fanatics or other groups of people entertaining half baked notions, will walk off with the nomination in the name of party, and thus the entire body of prin ciples represented by a great party is betrayed."

The final comment of the Indianapolis Star on the general subject is suggestive. It remarks:

" Meanwhite it is a wholesome thought in this connection as in so many others that the hope of making officials able and honest or voters wise and vigilant by law is vain."

The evidence is patent, unmistakable; the character of the witnesses is na-County golf links, "I didn't think I could tionally recognized. Of course no one do that." It is perhaps not treason to

New York has been subject to such fre- upon the diminutive parasites and dis- and least meritorious achievement in golf. THE quent amendment at every session of credited bosses who have leaped upon the Legislature that it requires careful the Governor's platform for reasons home runs often distinguish themselves scrutiny to detect what provisions of well understood. HINMAN, DAVENPORT, the statute have remained unchanged Cassidy, Collins and Wadhams, these for any particular length of time. This are quite the kind of creatures much, however, is certain: the law was which the experience of other States completely recast, materially amended has demonstrated accompany the direct primaries. These are the "cheap and unfit self-seekers" of the Indiana experience, and the makers of the "empty speeches," the authors of the "flimflam circulars" of the Oregon episode. Their petty designs for personal political profit are well known in their own neighborhoods. But assuredly the State has the right and the reason to expect a different order of intelligence, conscience HUGHES.

## Genealogies of the Gods.

It is a poor American sovereign who hasn't bought a pedigree. For the rich, long descents are manufactured in quantities to suit, though seldom at less than fancy prices. We notice that somebody has just provided a loose but sufficient garment of ancestry for our old Spartan friend the Hon. HENRY GASSAWAY Davis, sprung, it seems, from "Italian kings" before or about the time of CHARLEMAGNE. We had supposed that this branch of the DAVISES went still further back to an illustrious classical character, DAVUS, who dates from centuries before COLONNAS, ORSINIS and Mayflower descendants. But everybody is entitled to have ancestors to order. That modest and self-sacrificing patriot the Hon, STEPHEN BENTON ELKINS represents, we believe, the elder branch of the ALCUINS, Counts of Mainchance and Mainforte in Normandy. As to the acter the Hon. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER. the heralds' colleges are divided. We quote from the writer who uses the pseudonym "Marquise DE FONTENOY":

"German genealogists have taken excentled to the claims put forward by the French tha Languedoc, who were driven out of France by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. They have by dint of careful investigation of State, communa and parish records of the former principality of Neuwied ascertained that he is descended from JOHANN THIEL ROCKENPRILER, who emigrated with his wife, ANNA GERTRUDE ALSDORP, and children from Bonefeld, in 1735, to Germantow in New York.

" It is further shown that this JOHANN TRIE ROCKENPRILLER was the fourth son of a certain Tonges Rockenfrider, who in 1685 married GERTRUDE PAULI, at Bonefeld. TONGES ROCK ENERLLER himself was born in 1660, his father JOHANN WILHELM ROCKENFELLER, halling from Ehlscheid. This disposes absolutely of the Gaelle story to the effect that the Standard Oil magnate is descended from those Languedoc Marquesses DE ROQUEPEUIL who were expelled from France on the repeal of the Edict of Nantes

While it is edifying to see France and Germany in noble contention for the first springs of this fountain of oil, the actual origin of the name and family is by no means so simple. In BUNKO and Budwets's "Historia Nominum" (Bonn, 1907), Rockefeller is described as "a hybrid word, Persian, German and English, signifying the man (feller) with the roc's egg." Satisfactory, if not conclusive.

Broadway and the Dramatists. It is evident that the success last season of a play dealing with a subject the reason that they drummed out every office- dramatist, and treated with unprecedented frankness, has supplied a model employed by the city alone and quite a number in for many aspiring playwrights. Imitativeness is a primary instinct of the theatre. Plays that succeed immediately bring into existence their inevitable train. In this particular case there are other explanations. Undoubtedly managers will pretend that there is a demand for plays of this character; but these copies of "The Easiest Way" have come forward in such numbers because they are the least difficult to write. Imagination, ingenuity, wit, skill in writing, poetic fancy, are not evident in the recent works inspired by their daring prototype. In fact, few of them suggest much of anything but the sheer audacity of

the original. is a gratifying fact that the odds and ends of avarice, seduction and prostitution left over from the material of which the pattern play was built have been so maladroitly put together by the imitators that their repudiation by the public has swiftly ensued. Familiarity with the grosser phases of existence in New York has not yet proved sufficient qualification for a dramatist.

The occasional outbreak of a certain the old system produced? We subported truthful kind of drama is adequate proof of the slight extent to which the theatre follows the ideals of American life. It is contended that such dramas as those mentioned here mark an advance toward truth and the representation of life; vet it is not conceivable that there has suddenly been an awakening of interest in such modern phases of harlotry as they exhibit. There is no possible ground for such an opinion. The French plays, immoral as they may be, are at least typical. The unchanging triangle may be wearisome, but it is the only material that suggests real problems to the French stage. It is possible that the growing emancipation of women in France may help the dramatists to find attention ever, testimony from Oregon, the home heroines of other types after a while. On the other hand, Americans take no more the contrary notwithstanding.

> Senator CUMMINS of Iowa sees no serious possibility "of a Democratic Congressional or national victory because of the passage of the new tariff law." but there may be a Democratic victory in Congress because of the insurrection within the ranks of the Republican party which the Hon. ALBERT B. CUMMINS volunteers so impulsively to lead. It is all very well to be contemptuous of the Democratic party-no doubt it deserves contempt but there cannot be a breach in many Congress districts between Republican factions disputing about the tariff without advantage to the Democratic candidate

"Thunder!" exclaimed the President of the United States after making a long drive over a brook from a tee on the Essex forest, fish and game law of expects the evidence to have any effect observe that the long drives the easiest

on the tee, but are weak in the approach game and sadly deficient on the green This is not saying that Mr. Tarr lacks versatility. Indeed, from all accounts he seems to be a respectable golfer, even for a President, and far better at the game than was Mr. ROOSEVELT at tennis, who thought that he showed skill when he hit the ball a resounding whack.

# THE BATTLE OF THE LEVELS.

A Pertinent Question From Rear Admiral Goodrich.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have watched with much interest the varying and leadership from CHARLES EVANS phases of "The Battle of the Levels," wherein the honors of the argument seem to lie with the advocates of the sea level canal at Panama, while the advocates of the lock capa hold the main position and calmly proceed the "manifestation of sympathy to work out their own plans to their own satisfaction.

In the smoke of conflict, the real issue has become obscured and the canal as a means of navigation has been replaced by the canal as an engineering end (I will not say monument) in itself. That either type can be constructed at practically the same cost and in practically the same time I must believe because experts say so, and upon the accuracy of their statements they stake the case, why not give the future users such a canal as they want? Time was when sailors in general and naval officers in particular said, "A sea level canal of course, if we can have it, but a lock canal rather than none at all." Evidently the builders to-day can produce either type. The glory of pushing to completion so vast an enterprise, the largest in all history, will be beyond estimation no matter which form may origin of that illustrious literary char- I should prefer the blessings of coming generations of skippers for a safe and easy transit rather than their maledictions for dangers and vexations.

Why not, then; make the canal what Mr. Schwab and others, speaking for the merchant marine, and Rear Admiral Chadwick taken part in internal politics, he belongs JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER is descended from the and others, speaking for the navy, tell us Marquesses of Roquefeuil, in the province of the seafaring community, peaceful and bellicose, alike desire? Surely these distinguished gentlemen would not be out of order in asking the reasons why the commerce of all nations and the navy of our own are denied that which they urge so strongly and so intelligently.

C. F. GOODRICH POMPRET, Conn., August 8.

The Distribution of Our Industries. Bulletin 101 recently issued by the Burea

dollars of capital is invested in manufacturtricts of the United States, that the yearly disbursement for wages exceeds a billion dollars, and that the value of the yearly

dollars is as follows	1000	Yearly	Yearly
District.	Capital.		Product
New York	1,573	342	2,144
Chicago	064	140	971
Philadelphia	622	123	676
Pittsburg Allegheny	414	61	38
Boston	311	84	45
St. Louis.		47	320
Buffalo	188	25	16
Providence	171	33	15
Cincinnati	171	34	200
Baltimore	168	29	200
Cleveland	165	36	176
San Francisco		29	156
Minneapolis-St. Paul	108	19	162
Totals	4,993	1,001	6,163
In the five years is	900 to 190	the in	

Capital invested ..... Yearly wages..... 224,000,000 64,300 The districts bear the names of their central cities and cover the immediately surrounding places which are in the closest possible touch with the central city. leading industries in each district are:

	New York
,	Chicago
•	PhiladelphiaTextiles.
١	Boston Boots and shoes.
	Pittsburg Allegheny Iron and steel.
,	St. Louis Slaughtering and
,	meat packing.
,	BaitimoreClothing.
	Cincinnati
٠	Clevelandf
	Buffaio
	Minneapolis-St. Paul Flour milling.
	San Francisco
	Providence Textiles.

The "Near Citizen."

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: What's ti matter with "Looker On" in to-day's SUN? Of course "it's greatly to his credit that he is an Englishman," but the enthustasm which impelled him "to ignore all rights of precedence" and take not his but some other person's place at the top of the line of bandits is better known in this benighted country as "gall." He and the "other bandits" were on the same errand—seeking the privilege of American citizenship. They equals before the law, no more, no less and "the great delight of a few friends" was easily evoked. nless, as seems likely, they were "kiddin and of course it is hardly to be supposed he could

ave detected that.
What is so "ignominious" about 30 cents, save should not the official's order to "come ack in two years" be, in the stress of business evidenced by the line, peremptory? De citizen look for a "dear Alphonse "di Did the nes THIRTY CENTS. JERSEY CITY, August 8.

A Good Word for the Telephone Girls. To the Editor of the Son—Sir: It seems to the that the telephone girls are a very much abused class. The majority of people speak indistinctly and have very little patience with the girls. I have been using the telephone for a

number of years and have invariably found the operators efficient and courteous great many women call up a number, and " without giving "central" a chance to connect them ask for the manager and tell him they truth, and it is not the way to secur prompt

Much Ado About What? Now politics all have died away. Never a ripple they left, or trace.
Who would have thought they held such sway Led us so weary and wild a chase

We would inquire in this breathing space Where are the questions that vexed us so The hipless maidens in strange array Wno agitated this year of grace No words of comment now make us say, Nor make us hasten our even pace. Melted away as the frost's frail lace, Our problems vanish from mind as snow,
Why should we worry the blows to brace?
Where are the questions that vexed us so?

Putting the citizens off their base?

Just from an idle desire to know

Not far away the momentous day That settles the baseball pennant race, Then we shall learn in the glad afray Which of the teams shall win by an ace.
When we grow used to their proper place
Our peaceful currents again shall flow. No hints of fashion plate, bat or mace. Where are the questions that vexed us so

Sphing, so inscrutable, blank of face, You see them come and you watch them go. If once they mattered, in such a case, Where are the questions that vexed us so? MCLANDSUBGE WILSON.

Dr. Affonso A. Moreira Penna, the President of Brazil, on June 14 last, has given an entirely new turn to the politics of that republic. It not only put an end on the spot to the candidacy of Dr. David Campista, the Minister of Finance, who was Dr. Penna's favorite for the succession to himself and who represented the ambitions of the State of Minas Geraes, it also has rendered almost hopeless the boom, once very flourishing, of Marshal Hermes da Fonseca, the "standard bearer of the new military idea. The fact is militarism is distinctly unpopular in Brazilian politics. The people at large regard a military President as a serious menace to their civil liberties. The feeling against Marshal da Fonseca has grown strong, if not bitter; many of the Senators and Deputies who took part in which his candidature was launched and who afterward signed a manifesto in his favor are said to be on the stool of repentance and ready to get off on the opposition side.

disappeared with Dr. Penna's death. Originally the real choice of the people for President was undoubtedly the Baron their professional reputations. That being last April, when the entire country joined in a demonstration in his honor. With the Presidential election in sight-it does not take place until March 10, 1910, but they begin early in Brazil-the meaning was unmistakable. His friends at once translated it into a nomination for the Presidency, but the Baron interposed s positive refusal, and that was the end of it. The progress of events may be interrupted here to say that there seems to be mind. He is a statesman of high ability, and his honor and patriotism have neve probably be elected triumphantly; but he has had no training in administrative government. His specialty is foreign affairs, not domestic. He has never to no party, and his attitude appears to be that he would be doing justice neither to himself nor his country in assuming the duties of an all important office without training, experience or personal liking The Baron do Rio Branco being self-

> Campista. The reasons why he seemed specially available on the close of his peaceful campaign at the grand manœuvres in Germany have heretofore been explained in some detail in these columns but even before President Penna's death a strong reaction against him and the military idea had set in. Senator Ruy Barbosa was one of the first to protest against a military candidature. Senhor Medeiros e Albuquerque, a prominent journalist, opened a vigorous campaign in Rio. The feeling of hostility spread fast in the larger States; São Paulo and Bahia will not hear of the Marshal, and of course he never had a chance in Minas Geraes, the State of Penna and Campista. An attempt to stem the tide was made by posing him as the candidate of Rio Branco, and a plausible explanation was put forward. It was said that in the troubled state of South American international relations, and especially because of the pending dispute over control of the waters of the River Plate, Brazil's foremost diplomat would be glad to see a soldier, a man representing the mailed fist, as it were, at the head of the Government; but a simple explanation took all the force out of these representations. It appears that when the anti-Penna leaders went to Fonseca and invited him to become their candidate he went direct to Rio Branco and asked his advice as to whether or not he should consent. The Baron cordially advised him to accept the honor; "but what else could he do ask the local critics of the situation. They were colleagues in the Cabinet-Fonseca was then Minister of War-they were personal friends; Rio Branco had just declined a similar offer. Would he not have been suspected of jealousy, bad faith, insincerity in his own refusal if his advice had been either negative or frigidly affirmative? That it had any political meaning is positively denied; it will be remembered that Rio Branco is non-partisan. As for the foreign issue, why, any President will war came the republic's leading soldier would only be handicapped by civil office. Still, the necessity for making strong

head against Campista, which appeared urgent in the minds of many Brazilian leaders and among large masses of voters in the States which looked with jealous eyes on the sort of ascendency that Minas Geraes was acquiring, gave his candidacy considerable vitality. Nobody else so well qualified to head the opposition seemed to be in sight. Then Dr. Penna died and with him the Campista boom, and with that the apparent necessity for the Fonseca campaign. The boom of course remained, but the reason for it had disappeared. The new President ad interim, Senhor Nilo Peçanha, has taken no definite position in respect to the cam paign. The Baron do Rio Branco remains at the head of the Cabinet. Three of the signers of the Fonseca manifesto are retained in it, but a new portfolio, that of agriculture, has been given to a representative of São Paulo and an anti-militarist. Fonseca is now before the people as a Presidential candidate without an opponent but on an unpopular platform, and the general expectation is that in the course of a few weeks his friends think it best to withdraw him.

Just at present the current of feeling seems to favor a "candidate of concilia tion," a man who will be pleasing to all parties in the country, and a former President, Dr. Francisco Rodrigue Alves, is much talked of. He was President from 1902 to 1906. He gave an excellent administration, he is beloved at home and respected abroad, and he had the backing of the great State of Sac Paulo. No formal boom has been launched in his favor, but even this is regarded as advantageous. In Brazil as elsewhere the early candidate seldom wins.

has resulted from the death of Dr. Penna Bahia and São Paulo are the organizere

## ANTI-MILITARY MOVE- of it. The intention is that it shall nomi-MENT IN BRAZIL. As was expected at the time, the death

over.

Whatever reason there was for putting the showy soldier candidate in the field do Rio Branco, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. This was shown on his birthday no prospect of the Baron changing his been questioned. If he ran he would

eliminated, the opposition next took up Marshal da Fonseca as an opponent for

stand up for the rights of Brazil, and if a in a recent letter to THE SUN is quite plainly in

The general unsettling of parties which

-an event which is said to have been hastened by disappointment and shock caused by the bitter fight against his chosen successor, Dr. Campista-has led to one remarkable innovation in Brazilian methods. A grand national convention has been called to meet at Rio de Janeiro August 22 to consider the Presidential situation. It is to be made up of leading men of all the States and representatives of all the municipalities. There is no constitutional warrant for it, and in fact no precedent. It has been organized by the opponents of Fonseca and militarism, and the officials of Rio.

nate candidates for President and Vice-President chosen from civil life. These will run against Fonseca if his name is not withdrawn. If he is out of the race the initiators of the movement hope the convention candidates will have a walk-

WHITE HOUSE AND CAPITOL.

Presidents Gught Not to Be Held Responsible for the Deeds of Congresses. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Judge Parker is quoted in the papers of this orning as saying with reference to the President's part in the passage of the new

The President has made a strong effort to secure at least an appearance of party honesty, but the little he has accomplished has been at great cost, for one more precedent is created of Executive using his great power to coerce a coordinate and independent department of Government, in violation of the spirit of the

Whether any "coercion" was in fact brought to bear, the public of course has no neans of knowing, but certainly the general impression prevails that from the last cenes of this legislative controversy Executive influence was not aloof. If this impression is not unfounded the patriot must feel the more disappointed because by the brief and admirable message with which on March 16 last the President convened the Congress in extra session he gave the country ample reason to hope that we had found an Executive strong enough to abstain from all attempt to substitute his own opinions for the free results of Con-

gressional debate.

At a time when the "big stick" was being wielded in a manner to dismay the ordinary citizen the undersigned addressed to you several protests against encroachments of the Executive branch of the Government upon the legislative prerogative. In letters published in TRE SUN on December 14 and 20, 1907, the writer called attention to the provisions of the United States Constitution which define and limit the President's twofold part in the country's legislation, whereby in advance of Congressional action he is authorized only "to give to the Congress information of the state of the ion and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge neces sary and expedient," while after a bill "shall have passed the House of Represen tatives and the Senate," and then only, his power of veto springs into life. In those letters quotation was made from the views of Mr. Webster, Judge Story and President Taylor showing how, startled by then recent dictatorial acts on the part of Executives, they feared that (in the lan guage of General Taylor) "our system was danger of undergoing a great change from its true theory" and that if the veto power continued to be used as it then was it would become "impossible to maintain the original balances of the Constitution,

as Judge Story expressed it. Executive "coercion," whether it takes the form of an undue exercise of the veto power or a threat or tacit inference that this power will be used if certain things are done or left undone, or any influence or persuasion growing out of the office of President, or even a too constant or emphatic announce ment of Presidential views, menaces the liberty of Congress and to that extent cripples the free working of the constitutional machine. Expediency is no justification for unconstitutional acts. Aversion of Con-gressional unwisdom is no basis for interference by the Executive with the country's lawmaking beyond that restricted action expressly permitted by the Constitution. are called upon to admit that a President alone stands between us and dangerous laws; and if the growing tendency toward Executive encroachment is sought to be defended upon party grounds, we can only say: Better that parties learn through defeat to fill the nation's coun-

must be resorted to. In the present case, where there are few trees, young and easy to get at, the leaves may be cut off, since the active funcion of sap and growth is on the wan NEW YORK, August 9. J. W. CULTER.

> Restored Pronunciation of Latin From the Ave Maria.

We have been requested to "take notice" the Educational Association of the United States, at the Hub of the Universe, the so-called Roman or restored pronunciation of Latin was amost unantmously adopted—by a vote of 59 to 8. This is a triumph, we admit. The motto of the Latin section of the Latin sections. tion of the association, we suppose, will bence forth be, "Wenl, widi, wiki" (so pronounced In the language of the immortal Kikero (Cicero) piring groans be questions. Is it not a little im probable that the Latins had two letters, c and k with absolutely identical values, though one of these letters was seldom used? What conclusive proof has been produced that the Latins almeed v as w? The argument from on is not convincing. How can you be sure. O learned Latinists, that there was n ence between written and spoken Latin verse is it certain that "in the brave old days of old" youthful readers pronounced verses exactly as they were made? Is English verse to be pronounced precisely as composed? To restore the pronunciation of Latin may be a simple matter at educational conventions, but elsewher might be attended with some little difficulties.

Give the Artist His Due.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: One of the tokens of intellectual advancement is the recog-nition of intellect. When a European artist does a noble thing for private or public service he is identified with it by name. This is the tradition of an old civilization Here we have grown very slowly into the

Here we have grown very slowly into the acknowledgment of intellectual creation. I have watched for years, with indignation, the artist ignored and the donor exalted; or the artist belittled and the orator thrust into spotlight.

Here is a chance to make a public demonstration of the value of artistic gifts. Let the intellectual of Mr. Brenner remain on the one cent piece as an index of new recognition for art in the United States.

"The count outlands the thrown."

"The coin outlasts the throne The bust, Tiberius."

HARRISON L. MORRE JAMESTOWN, R. I., August 10.

Her Plat.

The Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe explained "I used to live in my trunk in a summer hotel

## TAXING A STATE'S INCOME.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your correspondent Mr. Miner was within truth when he said that "since the organization of the Government no such ill considered, vicious and revolutionary project has been placed before the American peo ple" as the income tax amendment. His criticism embraced the entire scheme of novel taxation by Congress which has been proposed by President Taft and formulated by Senator Root and Attorney-General Wickersham. One fatal objection to that scheme is that it will empower Congress to lay taxes on incomes derived from the official revenues of the several States, as Mr. Miner explained.

The income tax amendment to the tariff of 1894 excepted States, counties and municipalities. The advocates of the tax conceded that neither the property nor revenues of a State could be taxed, but yet argued that the income therefrom could be. Every member of the court jumped with both feet on the proposition. All hands defended each State from Federal taxation. And yet the proposed ncome tax amendment will sweep away the prohibition thus proclaimed by the Supreme Court. The amendment authorzes Congress to lay not only a tax "on incomes from whatever source derived, out an unapportioned tax.

If three-fourths of the States shall ratify the amendment Congress can tax incomes derived by the State of New York from its official revenues, which have been themselves derived from taxing the people and property of the State. Messrs. Taft. Root and Wickersham, if then in control of taxation affairs, can require the tax to be levied by the Federal tax gatherer on the income of the State of New York from every source, including the death taxes. If the State shall refuse to pay, the Supreme Court will have original jurisdiction of a suit by the United States to compel the payment, and may enforce a levy and sale of the State House at Albany to pay a judgment.

If such taxation and levy cannot be enforced by Congress under the new tax schemes invented by the President, the Senator and the Attorney-General, they ought to hasten to set forth the reasons before voting on the amendment begins. NEW YORK, August 10. PUBLICITY.

## A DAY'S PLEASURING.

inday Cruise and Observations of a Philosopher.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: On anday I determined to take my pleasure sadly. I fully realized my determination, Like Henry Labouchers when he gees to the theatre, I looked at no programme, but simply put my finger down on an advertisement and said I would go "there." ore I chose started from an obscure dock

and the approach was a disgrace to any city, even this. The Hudson is a beautiful river, but it was as hot as the Red Sea, so much so that I wished the boat had alternately gone but it was as hot as the Red Sea, so much so that I wished the boat had alternately gone how and stern forward just to get a little draught. Going down the trip was pretty comfortable in other ways. The man of information dilated on that "pretty piece of work," Governors Island, and pointed out "a fellow with a gun over his shoulder, "and then relapsed into silence. The children, hordes of them, seemed to labor under most extraordinary names, the girls from Ethelinda and Araminta down to plain Dorothy, white the boys rejoiced in so aristocratic anomenclature that I almost fancied myself in a future Hall of Fame.

Boats are not boats: Ill nightfall: so

nomenciature that I almost in a future Hall of Fame.

Boats are not boats till nightfail: so to the beach. I have mixed with human-kind all over the world, but I never saw such an assemblage as I encountered at this seashore spot. If any one likes humanity in the aggregate let him take a trip thither. Most men and women are extraordinary sights when completely dressed, but there in bathdefended upon party grounds, we can only say: Better that parties learn through defeat to fill the nation's country defeat to fill the nation's country of the separate of the separate of the separate of the separate learn through defeat to fill the nation's country of the separate learn through defeat to fill the nation's country of the separate learn by their own personal interference.

If, then, Judge Parker is right in the remark quoted above, would it not be well for the strongest editorial voices in the country to begin at once to teach Americans why residents ought no longer to be held responsible for Congresses?

EDWARD H. BLANC.

NEW YORK, August 9.

The Sugar Maple Blight as Seen in Westchester.

TO TER EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Some sugar maple leaves cut by me from a young vigorout trie in upper Westchester county, growing with others in since condition, in good and well watered soll, show in a marked degree the effect of lear bilght. A note from middle Massachusetts informs me of the presence of the blight there, buttli snol wery pronounced in extent so far. The process of devitaling the lear mentioned by Mr. Mertill in a recent letter to TER Sun is quite plainly indicated on the leaves selected. The wood of the iree does not seem to be interfered with. The leaves affected are scattered very generally about the upper half of the tree.

As to the remedy, we must clean, wash and apray. Eternal vigilance seems to be the price of tree preservation these days. This may be determined to be a short life attack or a visitation of some variant of the many forms of pestilent insect life to which tree vergetiation is sub-lect. Cleaning the wood where practicable fail and spring and spraying in the foliage period musp be resorted to. In the present case, where there are few trees, young and easy to get at the clease of the was produced to the same control to the subject there, buttli snot of the subject the produced to t

Persicos Odi, Puer. Apparatus. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: The editorial in this morning's Sun under the caption "Dining and Painting" awakens a responsive chord. Frequent journeys to the metropolihave necessitated on the part of the writer patroes age of several New York hotels and restaurants. What fillp for a jaded appetite lies in pink tinted walls with gilded cornices and mauve wo

Who can really enjoy a thick, juicy beefsteal cooked to a turn, or a brace of broiled mutton chops, in surroundings suggestive only of to cream and lady fingers?

B. LAWS. SCRANTON, Pa., August 9. A Bostonian's Notions of Street Cleaning A Bostonian's Notions of Street Cleaning.

To the Editor of the Sun—Sir: On reading in the Editor of the Sun—Sir: On reading in winter it occurred to me that were I a resident of your city I would make a strong move to have Mr. Flagg made superintendent of the Street Cleaning Department. If there aren's manhoise enough, make more, and chuck the snow down in a hurse, thus saying time, trouble and expense. in a hurry, thus saving time, trouble and expense,
Compared with this method the carting off of new
fallen snow is a bungling and senseless way, as
it seems to me

BOSTON, August 8.

Pointer for Oregon Bachelors.

From the Jefferson Review.

Coming down to the office at an early hour the Coming down to the office at an early hour the other morning the Review man noticed one of our most popular and highly educated young ladies busily engaged in carrying in and stacking the winter supply of wood. And she didn't seem to care a bit who stopped and rubbered at the unusual sight. The chan who gets that the unusual sight. unusual sight. The chap who gets that girl to trot with him along life's stormy pathway will

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A corre-TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SHI. A COLLEGE Spondent writes THE SUN this morning compilating about the amount of "tipping" some of his friends indulged in on a trip to Europe. This correspondent seems to think that "tips" are compulsory, which is not true. Again, if a man are compulsory, which is not true. Again, if a man are compulsory. compulsory, which is not true.

yountarily gives a tip, why should be whine about
to afterward? "Tips" are perfectly proper and
will last as long as our present social and eco-

NEW YORK, August 9. Saving Saratoga Springs.

From the Buffeto News.

There is, therefore, outside of Saratoga.

Ittle sympathy for the outery that business is
in that village. It ought to be. Even these to have the State buy the springs is bre-down, as it is found that for no more than out of a score of them, every penny of the al-priation which the promoters of the scheme obsered would be ample to buy all the swill springs is demanded at the outset.